

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A heel pad for reducing the likelihood of decubitus ulcers on a patient's heels when
2 the patient is lying on a mattress, the heel pad comprising:
3 a cushion adapted to rest on the mattress beneath the calves of the patient;
4 wherein said cushion has a front, a rear, a top, a bottom and a pair of ends, said
5 cushion including a core layer having an arched profile, wherein said core tapers
6 downward toward said front and said rear; and
7 a top layer covering said core layer, said top layer being softer than said core
8 layer, and thicker toward the front and rear edges, wherein said top layer of said
9 cushion tapers downwardly toward said rear.
- 1 2. The heel pad of claim 1, wherein said layers are each constructed of a foam.
- 1 3. The heel pad of claim 2, wherein said layers are constructed of a polyurethane foam.
- 1 4. The heel pad of claim 1 further comprising a cover constructed of fluid resistant
2 material in which said cushion is received.
- 1 5. The heel pad of claim 4, wherein said cover includes a pocket having at least one open
2 end formed beneath said cushion and separated therefrom by a layer of cover material;
3 and
4 a riser insertable within said pocket to raise a portion of said cushion.
- 1 6. The heel pad of claim 5, wherein said pad is triangular in shape and has an inclined
2 surface that extends from the front of said cushion upwardly to the rear of said
3 cushion.

- 1 7. The heel pad of claim 6, wherein said pocket has a triangular section that conforms to
2 the triangular section of said pad.
- 1 8. The heel pad of claim 4, wherein said cover has a flap attached at either end, said flaps
2 extending downwardly from a base of said cover; and
3 a strap extending between said flaps adapted to secure said cushion beneath the
4 calves of the patient.
- 1 9. The heel pad of claim 8 further comprising a quick connector attached to said flap and
2 extending downwardly for attachment of said strap to said flaps.
- 1 10. The heel pad of claim 8, wherein said flaps extend a selected length for covering the
2 sides of the mattress.
- 1 11. The heel pad of claim 1, wherein said top layer has a density of about 1.5 lbs. per cubic
2 foot.
- 1 12. The heel pad of claim 1, wherein said core layer has a density of about 3.5 lbs. per
2 cubic foot.
- 1 13. The heel pad of claim 1, wherein said cushion has a thickness of about 1 inch to about
2 4 inches.
- 1 14. The heel pad of claim 13, wherein said thickness of said cushion is about 2 inches to
2 about 2.5 inches.
- 1 15. The heel pad of claim 14, wherein said cushion has a thickness of about 2.25 inches.
- 1 16. The heel pad of claim 13, wherein said top layer has a thickness of about one half of
2 the thickness of the cushion.

- 1 17. The heel pad of claim 15, wherein said top layer has a thickness of about one inch.
- 1 18. The heel pad of claim 1, wherein said core layer has an apex located centrally relative
2 to the front and rear of said cushion.
- 1 19. The heel pad of claim 1, wherein said core layer has a radius of about 4 to about 8
2 inches.
- 1 20. The heel pad of claim 1, wherein said top layer has front and rear edges that round
2 downwardly to conform respectively to the knee and heel of the patient.
- 1 21. The heel pad of claim 20, wherein said front and rear edges of said top layer round
2 downwardly in a symmetrical fashion and have a radius of about one mch.
- 1 22. A method of reducing the likelihood of decubitus heel ulcers comprising:
2 providing a cushion having a front, a rear, a top and a bottom, where said
3 cushion includes a core layer and an outer layer, where the outer layer is softer than the
4 core layer;
5 inserting the pad beneath the calves of the patient and cantilevering the heels
6 of the patient over the end of the pad.
- 1 23. The method of claim 22 further comprising providing said core layer with an apex
2 located centrally relative to the front and rear of the cushion, wherein the step of
3 inserting includes placing the center of the pad beneath the calves.
- 1 24. The method of claim 22 further comprising covering the pad with a fluid resistant
2 cover having downwardly extending flaps and tucking said flaps in around a mattress
3 to maintain the position of the pad relative to the calves of the patient.

- 1 25. The method of claim 24 further comprising the step of tying said flaps to each other
2 below the mattress.
- 1 26. A heel pad used to offload pressure on the heels of a patient, when the patient is lying
2 on a mattress, the heel pad comprising:
3 a cushion having a core layer and a top layer, said top layer being softer than
4 said core layer;
5 wherein said core layer has a front edge, a rear edge, and a top surface spanning
6 said edges, said top surface of said core layer defining a semi-circular arch;
7 wherein said arch has a centrally located apex adapted to reside beneath the
8 patient's calves;
9 wherein said top layer covers said core and has a thickness that is substantially
10 inversely related to a thickness of said core layer, wherein front and rear edges of said
11 top layer curve downwardly from the top surface of said top layer to define a clearance
12 between the cushion and the heels and knees of the patient;
13 an at least fluid resistant cover surrounding said cushion and including a base
14 residing beneath said cushion;
15 a pair of flaps extending downwardly from said base, wherein said flaps are
16 adapted to fit around an edge of the mattress.
- 1 27. The heel pad of claim 26 further comprising a securement assembly attached to said
2 cover for holding the cushion on the mattress.
- 1 28. The heel pad of claim 26, wherein said cover includes a flap extending beneath said
2 base to define a pocket; and
3 a removable riser receivable in said pocket.
- 1 29. The heel pad of claim 28, wherein said flaps extend downwardly from said flap
2 beneath said pocket.